**Corstorphine Community Council Monthly Meeting Minutes - Online**

**Date/time:** Tuesday 18 August 2020, 7.00 pm

**Apologies:** Robert Stokes, Cllr Claire Bridgman, John Kerr, Cllr Gillian Gloyer, Nathan Readie, Cora Stewart, Warren Hope,

Cllr Robert Aldridge

**Attendees:** Steve Kerr, PC David Campbell, Angela Benzies, Claire Connachan, Cllr Mark Brown, Ian Kirkpatrick (seconded minutes), Keith Walker, Pam Sked, Tommy McLean (proposed minutes), Cllr Frank Ross, Deborah McCall, Jon Melville, Graeme Hart, Vikki Brown, Henry Whaley, Jane Kerr

**Police Report – PC David Campbell**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jul 19 | Jul 20 |
| Housebreakings | 8 | 4 |
| Theft | 38 | 23 |
| Vandalism | 1 | 9 |
| Violence | 12 | 13 |
| Road traffic | 8 | 10 |
| Hate | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous including drugs | 8 | 10 |
| Calls for service | 281 | 226 |
| Crimes reported | 75 | 69 |

Notes

* Schools have returned and our SLOs are working with the schools. Localised incidents eg, no social distancing, should be managed by the school. When available, SLOs can assist.
* School start times are staggered therefore there are likely to be further disruptions around schools.
* We will be stepping up proactive speed checks in the area particularly along the St John’s Road corridor, (Corstorphine) High Street and Saughton Road North. Before improvements are made to a specific road CEC need to evidence the volume of accidents. PC Campbell to speak to Police Traffic Division for information and advice.
* Bike marking will continue in and around the area.
* ASB is still an issue and the community team have and will continue to put on dedicated ASB teams to try and combat this issue. On the back of the change to community policing arrangements, do Police Scotland foresee the management of this being an issue in the future? No. ASB patrols will be out at the weekends. All wards will be covered.

**Councillor’s Reports and Questions**

Cllr Ross

* Active travel on St John’s Road. Initial arrangements (cones) are fairly flimsy. Cones are being moved by the public but officers are attending twice a day to reinstate them. Cones are to be replaced with wands and more permanent infrastructure. Old railings are being removed to alleviate pinch points. Restrictions have been put in around Corstorphine Primary School. The cones will be replaced with wands and as the road has been narrowed it should hopefully have the effect of slowing the traffic down.
* Big focus is getting all the schools back and back safely by today (18 August). No reports of issues so far around any of the schools in the area – primary or secondary.
* Most council staff are still wfh and will continue to do so until the middle of October. Request for people to continue to be tolerant.
* East Craigs/Craigmount low traffic neighbourhood has generated a large number of emails from residents.

Cllr Brown

* Football has restarted in Gyle Park which has reintroduced the issue of parking on the grass. Liaising with CEC Parks team to try and inhibit same.
* Contributed to Evening News article showcasing the community activism from Gogarloch residents.
* Drumbrae Hub is out of action until start of year as it’s being used by pupils from Royal High for classroom based activities.
* East Craigs/Craigmount low traffic neighbourhood has generated a large number of emails from residents.

Cllr Gloyer (via email)

Cllr Gloyer has been making enquiries about the Tesco shopper’s car park and the response from a CEC planning officer can be found [here](https://www.dropbox.com/s/o1pu6575hg70e7d/Tesco%20Shoppers%20Car%20Park.pdf?dl=0). Concerns were raised over the car park closure and detrimental effect on the on street parking in Featherhall. Request made for CCC to contact Tesco asking for car park to be reopened until such times as it is sold. Parking in Featherhall is back to pre-Covid levels – commuters; nurseries have reopened; people using RBS due to other branches being closed; police officers on shift. This will only get worse after flats at Gylemuir Road are built due to lack of car parking planned for them.

*East Craigs LTN*

* Are these changes temporary or permanent? Cllr Ross: This is being done as part of the Covid-19 response. It is temporary but may become permanent. If it is to go beyond the stage of emergency TRO then it will have to go through the full consultation and legal process. There is no way of short cutting this as it’s the law.
* There is significant opposition from many of the residents. It is seen as an inappropriate use of powers to advance other agendas and has given the overall impression of the failure of local democracy. There is a significant breakdown of trust between residents and local government. Residents want constructive engagement with CEC.
* Cllr Brown – all local politicians are on the side of the residents and have raised significant concerns on their behalf but they have been dismissed. The Policy and Sustainability committee will discuss the project on 20 August.
* Comment from several attendees that CEC have mishandled communications again! It’s about reducing traffic on and the safety of the roads. There will never be a one size fits all but it’s worth trialling these suggestions to see what actually works. There is a danger that this turns into another Featherhall ie, a decade down the line we’re still no further forward.

*Torfin Beer Garden*: Keith Walker – on behalf of residents in St Ninian’s – was due process followed for license application? Cllr Ross – yes. Temporary license granted by Convenor. License expired on 2 August. Another application would have to have been made after this time for it to continue. Residents were informed of this. Cllr Ross to double check and feedback.

*Phase 1: Spacesforpeople*: Graeme Hart – good that cones have been installed and railings removed. Will cycle paths be included in Phase 2? Cllrs Ross – no. Will remaining on street parking in St John’s Road be preserved. Cllr Ross – yes. Phase 2 is only making current arrangements more permanent but will double check.

*Closure of Manse Street*: Vikki Brown - This has been successful. Now closed to through traffic. No issues raised but more cars are now using Ladywell Avenue. Few negative comments on social media. The High Street changes have been less successful – more work to be done here. Cllr Ross commented on how positive these changes can be if given a chance.

Business

Corstorphine Traders Association – Angela Benzies - Implementation group set up. List of objectives procured. Meetings held online. Facebook page set up - Corstorphine Open for Business. Initially a closed group for traders only. Next step is to make it official by creating a constitution (based on a SCVO template for an unincorporated voluntary association). Graeme Hart has asked for contact as he is keen to get involved. A list of traders open for business will be placed onto the open Facebook page and LocalBurgh. They want to pilot locality tagging with us. Cllr Ross – this is really important for local traders. On 6 August the Policy and Sustainability committee passed a paper based on business support and economic revival. It agreed to set up a local champions network highlighting traders association. They are to be part of the network who CEC would liaise directly with to discuss CEC’s support for economic regeneration. Having a constitution for Corstorphine Traders Association is very important. It can only be beneficial for it to be identified as the champion for Corstorphine.

EACC – meeting throughout lockdown online – better attendance that pre-lockdown! They are very interested in the traders association and have asked for a presentation on it at the October meeting. Angela to provide.

Environment

Several other Edinburgh community councils want to establish an environment policy to provide a position paper from EACC broadly in support of the measures that CEC are bringing in around the city. Meeting next week to discuss and take forward to September meeting. Steve is unable to attend the meeting in September. Post meeting note: Ian Kirkpatrick will attend.

Featherhall Filtered Permeability – still no response letter from CEC. Staff at CEC have now changed except for Dave Sinclair. CEC will revisit plan, look at comments received and create a new plan. CCC will approve this prior to CEC distribution. Jon Melville wanted to show his appreciation of the work done by the community council to move issues and changes forward on behalf of the locale. Our streets are too busy and need to be made safer. Although it’s not always obvious, there is a lot done in the background to get even the smallest change made and move things forwards.

**AOB**

* Angela Benzies - How can members of the public join the online meetings? Any members of the public who haven’t joined us before can do so via Eventbrite. It was mentioned on the agenda – a paper copy of this is put on the Woolworth’s noticeboard and Jon posts it on our Facebook page.
* Deborah McCall - Any member of the community council who wants to post on Facebook should run it pass the chair first.
* Keith Walker – Corstorphine Sight Loss Group – they were given a grant from North West Partnership pre-lockdown. Will they have to reapply? No, it will be carried forward.
* Corstorphine Rugby Club gave their thanks for the open letter sent from the community council.

Meeting ended at 8.49 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15 September, 7.00 pm online via Zoom. These minutes are also available online at http:// http://corstorphinecc.uk/minutes/.